



Appl. No : 09/764,490
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AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 1 as follows:

In accordance with another aspect of the invention there is provided a computer readable medium for providing instruction codes executable by a programmable device and a computer data signal including respective code segments embodied in a carrier wave. The computer readable medium provides instruction codes executable by a programmable device and the computer data signal contains respective code segments for directing a programmable device to produce a measurement of usage of the utility service at a location, to receive rate information from the utility service, to apply the rate information to the measurement to produce a billing value, and to produce a billing signal representing a bill bearing the billing value, for use by an output device at a subscriber location for producing a bill at the subscriber location.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 27, line 27 as follows:

In this embodiment, the communications device 81 facilitates two-way communications between the processor circuit 80 and the utility management apparatus 12 shown in Figure 1. The communications device 81 may form part of a wireless communications system such as the system sold and operated under the trademark Bluetooth BLUETOOTH ®, ~~communications system~~, for example, or the communications device 80 may simply be hardwired to the utility management apparatus 12. The communications device 81 may even be operable to communicate with the utility management apparatus 12 using the internet or another wireless communication device, for example.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 29, line 22 as follows:

The utility service measurement device 92 measures the utility service usage at a location where the utility service is being used. The utility service measurement device 92 may measure usage of a single utility or a plurality of utilities, and further may comprise a single measurement device or a plurality of measurement devices to produce a measurement or a plurality of measurements of utility usage. The utility service measurement devices may be any or all of the measurement devices 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, or 21 shown in Figure 1,

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to measure the usage of gas, water or electricity, or any other utility, for example, or may include utility service inlet devices (not shown).

Please amend the Abstract as follows. A copy of the corrected Abstract is also provided on a separate sheet attached to this amendment as an Appendix.

ABSTRACT

Methods, apparatus, computer readable media, and signals for managing utility usage are disclosed. Generally, each involves receiving a representation of a utility service usage at a load, receiving and storing a usage range representation, and producing a control signal for use by a utility service interrupter, when the usage is outside of the usage range representation. The control signal is operable to cause the utility service interrupter to interrupt a supply of the utility service to the load. Each also involves receiving a control signal indicating that a usage of the utility service at the load is outside of a usage range representation, and interrupting the supply of the utility service to the load in response to the control signal. Systems and methods ~~A method, apparatus, computer readable medium, and signal for facilitating monitoring of subscriber usage of a utility service is and for billing a subscriber for utility service usage are also disclosed. Also, there is disclosed a method, apparatus, computer readable medium, and signals for billing a subscriber for utility service usage.~~